

LISTING OF CLAIMS

This listing of Claims replaces all prior versions and listings of Claims in the Application.

Claims 1 to 14 (Cancelled).

Claim 15 (Currently Amended). A method of forming a sole for footwear, comprising the steps of :

a) forming at least one inner sole by delivering a rubber material or a thermoplastic material into a mold; and

b) at least partially impregnating a textile material into at least a portion of at least one surface of at least one inner sole to form an outer sole thereof;

c) removing excess textile material after said impregnating step; and

d) providing said textile material into the mold before delivering said rubber material or said thermoplastic material into the mold.

Claim 16 (Currently Amended). The method according to Claim 15, wherein the at least one inner sole is formed of a rubber material.

Claim 17 (Currently Amended). The method according to Claim 15, wherein the at least one inner sole is formed of a thermoplastic material.

Claim 18 (Currently Amended). The method according to Claim 15, wherein the impregnating step includes the substep of applying at least one of heat and pressure to at least partially melt ~~the~~ at least one surface of ~~the~~ at least one inner sole to at least partially impregnate the textile material therein.

Claim 19 (Currently Amended). The method according to Claim 15, further comprising a step of conforming a shape of the textile material to a shape of ~~the~~ at least one inner sole.

Claim 20 (Cancelled Claim). The method according to Claim 15, further comprising a step of removing excess textile material after the impregnating step.

Claim 21 (Cancelled Claim). The method according to Claim 15, wherein the inner sole forming step includes a substep of delivering a material into a mold.

Claim 22 (Cancelled Claim). The method according to Claim 21, wherein the method includes a step of providing the textile material in the mold before the delivering step.

Claim 23 (Cancelled Claim). The method according to Claim 21, wherein the method includes a step of providing the textile material in the mold after the delivery step.

Claim 24 (Currently Amended). A method of forming a sole for footwear, comprising the steps of:

a) forming at least one inner sole;

b) forming at least one outer sole including at least partially impregnating a rubber-free, woven natural textile material into at least a portion of at least one surface of the at least one inner sole so that only the textile material is exposed on an outer surface of the sole corresponding to the portion, the outer surface corresponding to an exterior peripheral face of the sole; and

c) providing said the portion into which the outer sole is partially impregnated with said woven natural textile material corresponding to less than the entire at least one surface of the inner sole so that only the inner sole is exposed on the outer surface of the sole corresponding to a remaining portion of the sole.

Claim 25 (Previously Presented). The method according to Claim 24, wherein the inner sole includes at least one of a rubber material and a thermoplastic rubber material.

Claim 26 (Previously Presented). The method according to Claim 24, wherein the outer sole includes a blend of woven fibers.

Claim 27 (Currently Amended). A method of forming a footwear article, comprising the steps of:

a) forming at least one inner sole;

b) forming at least one outer sole including at least partially impregnating a rubber-free, woven natural textile material into at least a portion of at least one surface of ~~the~~ at least one inner sole so that only the textile material is exposed on an outer surface of a sole of the footwear article corresponding to the portion, the outer surface corresponding to an exterior peripheral face of the sole, and

c) providing said ~~the~~ portion into which the outer sole is partially impregnated with said woven natural textile material corresponding to less than the entire ~~the~~ at least one surface of the inner sole so that only the inner sole is exposed on the outer surface of the sole corresponding to a remaining portion of the sole.

Claim 28 (Previously Presented). The method according to Claim 27, wherein the inner sole includes at least one of a rubber material and a thermoplastic rubber material.

Claim 29 (Previously Presented). The method according to Claim 27, wherein the outer sole includes a blend of woven fibers.